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Fred Helzerman, Sr., who served for several years as Augusta township highway commissioner, was born in Westphalia, Germany, and came to this country with his parents and three brothers and sisters at the age of 18. His father and one of his brothers were shoemakers, and they opened a shoe shop in Ypsilanti on the former site of the Ypsilanti Savings Bank, now City Hall, One S. Huron. Three years later they purchased land in Augusta township, and the present Helzerman farm includes part of that original tract.

Submitted by Jean Makarewich Helzerman who works for Durant's Flowers and her husband, Lynwood, is grandson of Fred Helzerman, Sr.